

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 7, 2000 has been reviewed. As a result, claim 61 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 3-5, 14, 57 and 62 have been amended. The reconsideration of this application in view of such amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 and 14 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Specifically, dependent claims 3-5 depend from canceled claim 2, and dependent claim 14 depends from canceled claim 12. Further, claims 3-5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3-5 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 3-5 have been amended to depend from claim 1 and claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 10. It is believed that amended claims 3-5 and 14 are in proper dependent form, and thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection of claims 3-5 and 14 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) and the rejection of claims 3-5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 57-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by French reference '678. Claims 61-65 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

An English translation of the entire French reference '678 has been obtained and a copy is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

Claim 57 has been amended to include the limitations of objected claim 61, and therefore, is submitted to be in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 57-605 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

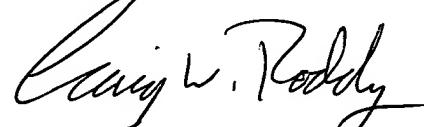
Claim 62 has been amended to depend from claim 57 and is believed to be in proper dependent form.

Claims 1, 7-11, 15-34 and 44-56 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Claim 61 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 3-5, 14, 57 and 62 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 14-34, 44-60 and 62-65 are now in condition for allowance. This is intended to be a complete response to the Final Office Action mailed August 7, 2000 and the allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 14-34, 44-60 and 62-65 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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